

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
Akihisa HONGO et al. : TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
Serial No. NEW : FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
Filed February 18, 2004 : ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975
: **Attn: APPLICATION BRANCH**
: Attorney Docket No. 2004_0222

ELECTROLESS PLATING APPARATUS
AND METHOD
(Rule 1.53(b) Divisional
of Serial No. 09/983,399,
Filed October 24, 2001)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Each reference listed on the Form PTO-1449 was previously cited by or submitted to the Patent Office in prior parent application Serial No. 09/983,399, filed October 24, 2001.

1a. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, **or**

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

(1) ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**

(2) ☐ the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and

the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

2. It is hereby certified

a. ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or

b. ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. ☐ Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:

a. ☐ a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,

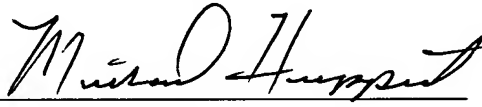
- b. ☒ a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) was previously submitted in an IDS filed May 16, 2002,
- c. ☐ the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page ,
- d. ☐ the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
- e. ☒ the concise explanation for the reference cited below was previously provided in an IDS filed May 16, 2002,

JP 2000-256896 corresponds to EP 1 029 954.

5. ☐ A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Akihisa HONGO et al.

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February 18, 2004

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Date Submitted to PTO: February 18, 2004

ATTY DOCKET NO.
2004_0222SERIAL NO.
NEWAPPLICANT
Akihisa HONGO et al.FILING DATE
February 18, 2004

GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	6,379,520	4/2002	Kuriyama et al.			
	AB	6,267,853	7/2001	Dordi et al.			
	AC	4,109,612	8/1978	Mayer			
	AD	5,938,845	8/1999	Ang			
	AE	5,357,991	10/1994	Bergman et al.			
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
	AJ	1 029 954	8/2000	EP				
	AK	2000-256896	9/2000	JP				
	AL	11-87273	3/1999	JP				
	AM							
	AN							

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AO	
	AP	
	AQ	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED